

# EXPLORING COLONIAL AMERICA & THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Departure Date: April 15, 2000  
ITINERARY — 15 Days/14 Nights

## Saturday, April 15 JACKSONVILLE (EMBARK)

Embark the *Nantucket Clipper* in Jacksonville, a vital strategic port for the Union forces occupying the city during the Civil War, and begin your journey this evening cruising along the wide St. Johns River, past the city's sparkling, modern skyline.

## Sunday, April 16 and Monday, April 17 SAVANNAH

You arrive in Savannah at lunchtime on Sunday, and have two days to discover the many charms of this beautiful city.

Savannah has been called the "Forest City"; its numerous parks and green squares are blooming legacies to the foresight of its founder, General James Oglethorpe, who settled here in 1733. His plan to make the inner city spacious and attractive has been maintained intact, thanks to many preservation-minded citizens. The city is a joy to explore on foot; its cobblestone streets are lined with classic wrought-iron fences and 150-year-old, moss-draped oaks. Savannah's 45-block historic district is adjacent to the *Nantucket Clipper's* dock on River Street.

Originally used as a Confederate port during the Civil War, Savannah was captured by Union forces near the end of General William Tecumseh Sherman's famous "March to the Sea" in 1864. Savannah's leaders surrendered to General Sherman rather than see their city torched, prompting his famous telegram to President Lincoln: "I beg to present to you as a Christmas gift, the City of Savannah, with . . . about 25,000 bales of cotton."

While in Savannah, you may choose to join an optional excursion to nearby Fort Pulaski, located on Cockspur Island in the Savannah River. Built in the 1830s and '40s to improve the coastal defenses of the nation, Fort Pulaski was originally claimed by the Confederate Army during the Civil War. In April 1862, Union troops seized the fort, surprising the Confederates with high-powered rifled cannons that were able to penetrate the fort's thick masonry walls from Union positions one mile

away. Today the partially restored fort is preserved as a National Monument. An optional walking tour of the city is also offered.

## Tuesday, April 18 CHARLESTON

You have a full day to savor Charleston. This beautiful city has a wealth of 18th- and 19th-century mansions, but it is probably best known in American history as the site where the Civil War began at Fort Sumter. While in Charleston, you may tour this historic island fort on an optional excursion.

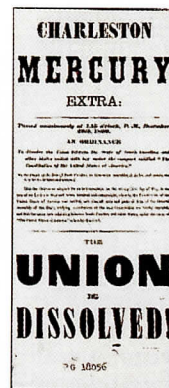
Explore our nation's first historic district, just a few steps from where we tie up next to the Battery. This beautiful area has survived intact because of the diligence of local preservationists. You'll be transported back in time as you stroll along lovely lanes filled with colonial mansions and historic churches. You may choose from two other optional tours that explore the city's Civil War history.

## Wednesday, April 19 CRUISING THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY

You will cruise on the Intracoastal Waterway today, enjoying the typical Low Country landscape of marshes filled with aquatic plants and many species of birds. Pelicans, ibis, egret, and osprey are among those you may see, while an occasional alligator or sea turtle may be spotted along the banks. On shore, look for deer, raccoons, and opossums, which inhabit the thickets of the barrier islands and cypress swamps.

## Thursday, April 20 WILMINGTON, NC

This morning we make a turn up the Cape Fear River, sailing to the historic city of Wilmington.



### Where the War Began

In the pre-dawn hours of April 12, 1861, at the Confederate stronghold of Fort Johnson, South Carolina, Captain Stephen D. Lee issued the order that sent the first shell of the Civil War barreling toward Union-held Fort Sumter. For the next 34 hours, Union forces held their ground while Confederate soldiers fired almost continuously at the island fort, located in Charleston Harbor. Women and children lined the wharf at Charleston to watch the firefight; in the end, the fort belonged to the Confederates. For the next four years, Confederate troops defended the strategically located bastion from Union attacks.

Partially restored, with a museum and historical displays, Fort Sumter is now run by the National Park Service. Our exploration of Colonial America and the Battlefields of the Civil War takes us to romantic Charleston, where Fort Sumter is one of the many fascinating sites you may choose to visit.

